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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 114  
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to designate the press room adjacent to Room 12/14 in the Legislative Plaza as the "Speaker George Oliver Benton Suite".

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of this state should permanently commemorate the accomplishments of those distinguished public servants who have served the General Assembly with the greatest acumen, integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of special recognition than George Oliver Benton who, during his meritorious career on Capitol Hill, has served with distinction in several important legislative capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Jackson to Oliver Benton and Lucy Wilkerson Benton, George attended Jackson public schools and graduated from Vanderbilt University prior to earning his law degree from Vanderbilt in 1940; and

WHEREAS, ever mindful of his patriotic duty to the country he loves, George Benton served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II from 1941-45, and was honorably

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discharged as a major; he retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Marine Corps Reserve in 1956; and

WHEREAS, George Oliver Benton was one of the most dedicated legislators this state has ever known; his record of impeccable service stands as a testament to hard work, compassion and understanding; and

WHEREAS, Senator Benton ably represented Chester, Henderson, and Madison Counties during the 75th and 76th General Assemblies, diligently serving the good people of his district while in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, George Benton served in the important position of Senate Speaker during the 75th General Assembly, where he was highly respected by his colleagues for his spirit of fairness and compromise, his expertise and his unrelenting devotion to the public welfare; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his stellar service to the State of Tennessee, George is a practicing attorney and legislative lobbyist, who is affectionately known to everyone at the Legislative Plaza as the "dean of lobbyists"; and

WHEREAS, he has contributed his time and exemplary talents as a member of the state Democratic Executive Committee, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the board of directors of the National Bank of Commerce, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, George is most appreciative of the love and support he shared with his wife of over 50 years, the late Theresa Anderson Benton; he is the proud parent of Jane Benton Fort, George Oliver Benton, Jr., and Hugh Anderson Benton; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to improving the quality of life for Tennesseans are indeed numerous, and we, his former colleagues, wish to permanently commemorate his legacy of public service and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That the press room adjacent to Room 12/14 in the Legislative Plaza be designated as the "Speaker George Oliver Benton Suite" as a lasting tribute to this distinguished gentleman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Skip Butler, Legislative Office Facilities Manager, is hereby directed to erect a sign designating such room as the "Speaker George Oliver Benton Suite".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.